

EXTINCTION OF JEWS.

As Hitler's campaign in Russia moves dangerously ahead and the stage set, gradually or otherwise, for a second front in the West, the Nazis are bending every effort to bring to a conclusion an "aggression" that began before their ascent to power in 1933 and which has continued undiminished ever since.

Developments of the past few months make it difficult to escape the conviction that the Nazi are endeavouring to exterminate the Jews of Europe in the shortest possible time.

Their attempt to annihilate an all but impotent enemy when they still have powerful foes with which to contend, both in the East and in the West, is typical of Nazism's brutal and ruthless character.

There are, however, a number of possible purposes behind it.

First, there is the continuing need of scapegoats to justify the increased demands that are being made on the German people. Second, there is inherent Nazi fanaticism, which apparently has never waned and which probably has been goaded into a new frenzy by the unfaltering resistance of the populations of the occupied countries. Third, there is the fear—undoubtedly justified—that the Jews will be a dangerous partisan threat at the German rear and within the Axis lines when a United Nations attack comes.

MASSACRES FLOURISH.

But whatever the cause, massacres of Jews are proceeding without a let-up in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and the overrun portions of western Russia, while new and incredibly severe restrictive measures are being imposed elsewhere.

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In Minsk, Russia, alone, it is said, 86,000 adherents of the Jewish faith have been shot, while in Vilna, Lithuania, the toll has been put at 60,000.

Cardinal Hinsley, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, England, is reported to have said recently in a radiocast to Europe that more than 500,000 Polish Jews had been executed without the semblance of a trial.

Before the war there were approximately 8,500,000 Jews in the countries now dominated by the Axis. To-day it is estimated that less than 6,500,000 remain. About 600,000 are known to have migrated. Another 400,000 or more are prisoners in concentration camps, slave labourers working for the German armies in Russia, Africa and western Europe, or homeless refugees waiting vainly in harbours for ships to carry them to America.

The Jewish birth rate according to reliable advices from inside occupied Europe, has dropped more than 10 per cent. since 1939, while the mortality rate has been increased at an accelerated speed of 5 to 10 times.

DEPORTATION ANNOUNCED.

On August 3, German authorities announced officially over the Hilversum Radio that all Jews in the Netherlands would be deported to the East, presumably to a place where they would be unable to aid an invading United Nations army.

At the end of July more than 25,000 Jews were rounded up in Paris and sent to concentration camps.

An apparent drive to clear the last remaining Jews out of Berlin has been launched in the German Capital.

Only the threatened intervention of the papacy is said to have prevented Mussolini from decreasing the banish-

the puppet state to have prevented Mussolini from decreeing the banishment of all Jews from Italy.

Agitation is reported under way to bring about the expulsion of the Jews from Finland.

Sano Mach, Minister of the Interior of separatist Slovakia, has been quoted by the German Radio as saying that by the end of September all of Slovakia's remaining 58,000 Jews will have been driven out.

The Nazis admit that the Jewish population of the puppet state of Croatia has been reduced from its pre-war total of 35,000 to less than 6000 with most of the survivors interned in concentration camps.

FORCED INTO WAR.

Presumably all able-bodied Jews who escape execution or imprisonment are being pressed into conscript battalions to aid the German war effort. It is estimated that in Warsaw alone about 80,000 skilled workers have been forcibly assigned to war tasks.

Everywhere the Nazis are rounding up Jewish youths and children for transfer to the Ukraine to help cope with a palpably serious shortage of field hands for harvesting crops.

In Germany, all Jewish schools have been closed and all Jewish boys and girls above the age of 14 are being sent to the Ukraine.

In Poland 4,000 Jewish children between the ages of 12 and 15 were reported rounded up in one day and shipped off to southern Russia.

Thus, the plight of the Jews in Europe is more desperate now than it has ever been. If the Jews are to survive at all the United Nations must win the war. Even the slightest easing of the Jews sufferings would seem to be dependant upon a complete Axis collapse.

Axis collapse.

But it is idle to assume that the downfall of Hitler and his partners, per se, will solve the problems of the Jews or restore them to their pre-war status.

RESTORATION HUGE TASK.

Millions of Jews have been completely disinherited and disenfranchised and it will hardly be possible for the United Nations to restore their rights automatically.

A war-impooverished Europe will not be able to reabsorb readily a large number of repatriated Jews. Nor will a decade of insidious Nazi propaganda immediately cease to make itself felt among peoples conditioned by bigotry and grown hard in the forge of war and tyranny. Even before the rise of Hitler the position of the Jews was scarcely tolerable in some parts of Poland and in the Balkans.

The problem of what is to become of the Jews after the war, therefore, is almost as vital as what is to become of them now.

Field Marshall Jan S. Smuts, Premier of the Union of South Africa, recently gave expression to the growing realisation of this fact when he declared:

"A stable postwar structure must provide freedom and equality for the Jews are also the implementations of the promise of a Jewish national home."

Fortunately, numerous influences and far-seeing men appear to be aware that

the post-war future of the European Jew will depend in great measure on what is done for him immediately after the cessation of hostilities.

EARLY QUESTION IN PEACE.

Strong efforts are being made both

Strong efforts are being made both in this country and in Great Britain to make certain that the Jewish problem and the closely related Palestinian question are among the very first subjects tackled at the peace conference.

A few weeks ago representatives of nine Hitler-ravaged countries promised the newly-organised Advisory Council on European Jewish Affairs that the freeing of their homelands would carry them with it a return to rights and property for the Jewish minorities therein.

Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress, has outlined four provisions for any truce, armistice or peace treaty—namely, the abolition of all Axis anti-Jewish measures, the unrestricted right of all Jews to return to the homes from which they were driven, the restoration or restitution of Jewish property, and legal guarantees against anti-Jewish discriminations.

And 75 American Christian clergymen and laymen have recently issued a statement calling for the establishment of the majority of Europe's Jews in Palestine after the war because it would be impossible to rehabilitate them in their former countries.

However, in spite of the imposing problems in the way of his rehabilitation, the post-war Jew in Europe is likely to be on substantially better terms with those of his Christian neighbours who haven't been mesmerised by Nazi propaganda, than he has been for generations. A study of the jumbled and partial dispatches, the disconnected, censored advices and poignant letters that come from occupied Europe lead easily to this conclusion.

As the Nazi pressure has worsened, popular sympathy for the Jew has increased tremendously and with it has come, in many instances, a deeper and broader understanding of his age-old

come, in many instances, a deeper and broader understanding of his age-old problems.

Even in Germany widespread sympathy has developed for the Jew. Recent advices tell how some members of the armed forces have gone out of their way to defy Nazi restrictions by paying little courtesies to members of the prescribed group.

In leading Italian cities protest demonstrations have been staged in railway stations when parties of Jews have been shipped to labour camps.

In the Netherlands Protestant and Roman Catholic churches have boldly petitioned German military authorities for better treatment for Dutch Jews.

In France likewise leading Roman Catholic clergymen have appealed to the Vichy Government to alleviate the condition of the French Jews and to curtail an anti-Semitic programme.

The following homely incident is typical of the friendly feeling many of the subject people of Europe now bear toward the Jew and may be a significant index to his post-war chances:

On the day the Nazis decreed that all Jewish school children would have to wear the Star of David, a Brussels teacher took her class through the streets of the Belgian capital en route to an outing. Holding tightly to the teacher's hand and walking with her at the head of the procession was a seven-year-old Jewish girl.

"Nita must lead the class," the teacher declared loudly as he passed a group of German soldiers. "She's the only one that has a star."

ACTING LIKE JEWS.

At about the same time this was taking place Max Blokzizl, the so-called Dutch Goebbels, was complaining bitterly in Holland that "all kinds of people now act like Jews and show their sympathy with them."

their sympathy with them."

In Amsterdam it has become the fashion for Dutchmen to raise their hats when they pass a Jew on the street.

And Vichy admits that in Paris hundreds of non-Jews are wearing the Star of David or imitations of the emblem.

Thus comradeship in arms and common cause and common humanity show that Jew and Gentile can be brought closer together.

As Dr. R. Tartakover, President of the Jewish World Congress, said recently in Ottawa:

"The Jew is no longer alone in the world. All democratic people march now at his side."